



September 22, 1999

To whom it may concern:

Valentino Jack,
Tribal Chairman

Anthony Jack,
Tribal Vice Chairman

Tina Ramos,
Tribal Secretary

Priscilla Ballente,
Tribal Treasurer

The Framework Agreement that formed the Cal Fed Bay Delta program included 15 entities with regulatory and management responsibilities in the Bay Delta and its watershed, but has excluded the over twice that number of Tribes within the direct watershed. Each individual Tribe is a sovereign nation with regulatory and management responsibilities. As the Tribes of the San Francisco Bay watershed develop water quality standards, coordination with other regulatory entities will be necessary to achieve concurrence on water quality management. Inclusion of Tribes in the governance of the Cal Fed Bay Delta program will advance watershed coordination between Tribal governments and the State and Federal agencies of the region.

The 1994 Executive Order for Government to Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments requires the direct consultation with all Tribes on these matters. I suggest that when conducting this consultation, that the elected leaders of the federal and state governments participate and meet with Tribal leaders to discuss the activities of the Cal Fed agencies. The Cal Fed Bay Delta program's Policy Group, or the equivalent, needs to have established procedures for tribal governments to request consultation.

In closing, I am stating that the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians are requesting the involvement of Tribes in the governance of the Cal Fed Program, direct access to the Policy Group as required by the Executive Order, and has interests in inclusion in the Framework Agreement. The long-term governance of Cal Fed will be determined shortly and will impact Tribal sovereignty and the available water resource management funding for years to come if not inclusive of the Tribes in the region. The staff of the Cal Fed Bay Delta program and associated Department of Interior agencies need to act now and secure the rightful place of Tribes as sovereign nations in the future water management of the region.

Sincerely,

Mike Schaver
Environmental Coordinator, Big Valley Rancheria
Central California Representative, Regional Tribal Operation Committee
Bay Delta Advisory Council Member